
FIRESIDE CHAT SPRING 2018



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FIRST FAMILY'S 2018 ROAD MAP

In early January, a group of 12 FFC leaders went through a strategic planning process facilitated by the Paterson Center. This process helped bring clarity and focus to several areas of ministry opportunity for FFC.

Currently, we have teams of people working on the following four areas:

- **Organizational Clarity.** It is important to stay focused and on target with the mission, vision, and values that guide FFC. This team is working to develop clear communication so that everyone who considers FFC home understands and can articulate the “why” of First Family Church.
- **Welcome Pathway.** Visiting a church is a daunting process for a family, and the Welcome Team is working to bring clarity and to simplify the pathway from the moment a new family enters our building until they make a decision to become a part of our church family.
- **Discipleship Pathway.** Making disciples is at the very core of why we exist at FFC. The Discipleship Team is working to develop a clearly outlined path for children, students, and adults that will help every FFC'er understand where they are in the process of becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ and the next steps in front of them to continue to grow and develop.
- **Staff Development and Organization.** As churches grow and develop, it is important that the staff structure stay nimble and responsive to this change. The Staff Organization team is working to evaluate our current staff development process and to ensure that job descriptions, leadership structure, and succession planning are consistent with where we are heading and not where we have been.

If you want to stay connected and up-to-date on FFC's Road Map, send an email to insiderupdate@ffclife.com.

We are providing updates on the three streams in which First Family seeks to strategically minister:

First Family Church (FFC) is the home base in Ankeny. This is the ministry to our families and to our community. Through FFC, we seek to develop devoted followers of Jesus who celebrate the gospel, grow in community, and serve the Lord's mission—making disciples of all nations.

First Family Extended (FFE) is the regional extension of First Family Church. This ministry is to our state and region. Through FFE we seek to equip and train FFC'ers to be a Christian influence wherever God plants them and to reach our state through church planting and church revitalization.

First Family Global (FFG) is the national and international extension of First Family Church. This is our ministry to the USA and international communities. Through FFG we seek to send and support partners who can impact cultures and countries with the gospel. A key part of FFG is sending short-term teams to visit our partners to learn more about what God is doing worldwide and to encourage our partners.

FIRST FAMILY CHURCH (FFC) UPDATE

Dave Nelson will be joining the elder team this April. Dave served as an elder for many years before stepping down to devote more time to his young children. Dave is in a position now to rejoin the team, and we are excited to have his expertise back on the elder team.

Cafe / East Entrance Remodel. We are planning to begin the Cafe / East Entrance Remodel this spring. Our design team has been with the contractor and plans are in the process of being finalized. This will add a second entrance to the east side of our building as well as provide a complete remodel of the cafe area, east entrance lobby, and bathrooms. The scope of this project will be determined by the amount given for our Spring Vision Offering.

Spring Vision Offering. Our goal this year is \$100,000 for our Spring Vision Offering on May 20. Each year our goal for our two special offerings is \$150,000 total. That remains our goal this year but please keep in mind that our weekly budget need of \$24,038.46 will be removed from the total given for each offering. We reached our goal in 2017, though the fall offering wasn't as high as we initially reported. As we finalized our 2017 financials, we found a clerical error that added our weekly budget need twice (\$22,641.51). We thank you for your continued generosity as The Lord continues to meet our needs as a church as we give towards the vision and mission He has given us.

FIRST FAMILY EXTENDED (FFE) UPDATE

Church Planting Pipeline:

Nick Reed and CityPoint Church successfully launched in Urbandale on March 9. They are meeting on Sunday nights at the Ramada Conference Center on Merle Hay Road. You can stay up to date with what is happening at CityPoint by connecting via their website: citypointu.com.

LifeChange Church is doing well after launching at the Iowa State Fair Grounds last October. They have recently moved into a new storefront office on E. University across from AE Dairy. LifeChange is planning several outreaches and events this summer to help reach East Des Moines. You can stay up-to-date with LifeChange by connecting via their website: lifechangedsm.com.

First Family Bondurant is now an autonomous church. They had five acres of land donated to the church in 2017 and are now in the very early stages of considering building options and design elements. You can stay up-to-date with First Family Bondurant by connecting via their facebook page: facebook.com/FFCbondurant.

Eric and Anna Trout will join us this summer, and Eric will be our next Church Planting Resident. They are moving to Iowa from Southern Illinois to plant a new church in Adel in the Fall of 2019, Lord willing. Eric's residency starts mid-July, and you will see him around FFC a lot this fall and winter. Eric and Anna have three children. You can connect with Eric and Anna via Facebook: facebook.com/EricTrout86.

Church Replanting and Revitalization efforts continue to take root. In December FFC started streaming our sermons to First Baptist Church in Lamon. This has been a great blessing for the church as they consider next steps to revitalize their church. We have also assisted new churches starting in Sioux City and Dubuque with their initial organization and establishing their legal identity, and are in the very early stages of working with three to four struggling churches in small communities in Northwest Iowa, Southwest Iowa, and Southern Iowa. If you are interested in more information about our replanting and revitalization efforts, please contact Chris Eller.

FIRST FAMILY GLOBAL (FFG) UPDATE

We are on target with our GO Trips for 2018. Currently, we have teams from FFC going to the following countries/regions this year:

- France
- Turkey
- India
- Utah
- Chicago
- Engage Global

We are still hoping to lead a team to East Africa in November. If you are interested in more information on this trip, please contact David Davenport at (dldavenport@gmail.com).

Incidentally, the partners we sent to South Asia, as well as the ones we sent to East Asia, in 2017 are doing as well as can be expected. The transition to life in those countries has been a challenge. Continue to pray for these families as they adjust to their new life and pray that they will become effective witnesses for the gospel in their new culture. If you are interested in partnering with these couples through their sending teams, specifically for prayer and encouragement, please contact our office.

Sara Hentzel is now working with Wycliffe as a programmer, helping develop applications that will make Bible translation more efficient in unreached areas. She continues to raise support for her ministry needs. If you would like to be a part of Sara's team, please contact our office.

There are currently two people in the pipeline to be sent overseas in the next couple of years. Continue to pray for them as they seek to raise support and prepare to leave.